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Application No.: 10/686324Case No.: 58658US002

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REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

In regard to the 112 second paragraph 1 rejection, claim 1 has been amended to simplify the language.

In claim 6, "mutually" generally means "sharing something in common," definition from Merriam-Webster online dictionary. In this case the feature being shared is being parallel. The term "mutually" has been replaced with "to each other."

In regards to the term in claim 10 "unbonded carded nonwoven web" this term is introduced in this claim. It is introduced by "an" not "the."

With respect to claim 16 "transverse" means "situated or lying across, crosswise" (American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed 2000). This should be clear.

In claim 17 applicant is allowed to use relative terms. Substantially parallel would encompass something that is almost parallel but not exactly.

In claim 24 "surface structure" are just that structural features on a face of the strands.

In claim 27 hook elements extend in the same direction as the second set of strand. This has been clarified.

Initially regarding both primary references "Embedded" means something that "encloses closely in or as if in a matrix" or "surround closely," Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. Attaching a nonwoven to a face of a film does not embed the film within the nonwoven and certainly does not provide individual fibers of the nonwoven on both faces of the film backing.

The 102(b) rejection based on Nestegard ('060) is respectfully traversed. The Nestegard does not teach at least the following features:

- 1) "A backing element embedded within a fibrous substrate." The nonwoven discussed at column 2, line 40 is the "loop" material that the hooks of Nestegard engages with. The backing in Nestegard is the film backing 11 with hook members 4 (column 4, lines 60-63). I guess you could read this passage to teach the hooks being embedded into the loop but the backing 11 certainly is not.

Application No.: 10/686324

Case No.: 58658US002

2) The fibers of the loop could not be on both faces of the backing 11. It is a film backing!!

3) Regarding claim 2 the backing in Nestegard is not strands. The figure referred to (Figure 1, element 15) is the stem of the hook, not the backing 11.

The remaining limitations discussed in paragraph 2 of the rejection are also lacking in Nestegard.

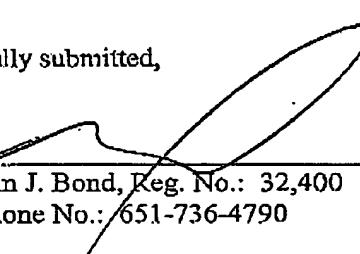
4) The 102(e) rejection based on Romanko ('371) is also clearly improper. Romanko does not have a backing embedded into a fibrous web. The hook backing in Romanko is a film where a face of the film backing can be attached to a nonwoven. Figure 5, element 71, is just a generic fastening strip according to the examples, which are all film backed fasteners with hooks on one face and loops adhered to the opposite face. Look at claim 1 of this patent. This is clearly all that is taught or suggested.

The 103 rejection of the dependent claim fails for the reasons stated above. The secondary references do not cure the deficiencies noted above relative to claims 1 et al.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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